

CANAL CONTRACTOR TAKES A LARGE FEE OF BLACK MAIL.

FAVORS FOR POLITICIANS.

SMITH TO VOTE, DESPITE DEPUTIES AND BLUDGEONS.

"Special Counsel" Covers a Lot of State Pap Distributed by Hancock.

WORK FOR POLITICIANS.

Machine Legislators Devise Special Laws and Are Selected to Enforce Them.

OTHER CALLS FOR EXTRA FEES

Agricultural, Excise and Lunacy Laws Open the Way to Reward the "Faithful."

Albany, Oct. 30.—Only a comparatively small portion of the vast patronage employed and dispensed by the Platt Republican machine throughout the State is represented by the list of officeholders drawing annual salaries. An army of lawyers, from the country pettifogger to the Wall Street attorney, is constantly fed with official pay from the State treasury, which the taxpayers supply. These get fees, many of them fat ones, through that prolific dispenser of fees, Attorney-General Hancock.

"Special counsel" is their title, and "violations of the Agricultural law" make up the field in which a large majority of them feed at the public crib. The Excise Department, lunacy commissions and prosecutions under strange and special laws, which the fertile brains of Platt legislators have evolved, provide many of these soft legal snags. In many cases, assemblages have been invented and secured the enactment of curious new laws have been rewarded with assignments from the Attorney-General's office to prosecute and investigate and condemn—with large fees—under the provisions of the measures which they discovered.

The list of these special counsel appointed and assigned during the four years that Attorney-General Hancock has been in office covers sixty-three ledger pages. Each man had from a dozen to fifty cases. The more political influence the man is supposed to have, the more cases he gets, and the larger his fee. Below are given the names of a few of the more specially favored "special counsel" attached to Attorney-General Hancock's administration.

FRANK L. BELL, Poughkeepsie, Senator George B. Mallory's friend and political ally.

C. C. C. O'DRISCOLL, Rochester, Speaker of Assembly.

PHILIP REAR, Johnstown, former Republican Assemblyman, now Clerk of the State Board of Claims.

LAMBERT B. KERN, De Ruyter, former Republican Assemblyman.

WILLIAM W. ARMSTRONG, Rochester, Republican Assemblyman, now candidate for State Senate in Monroe District.

H. H. HERSHBERG, Newburg.

J. M. E. O'DRISCOLL, Rochester, Speaker of Assembly.

GEORGE L. TIER, Albany, friend of George L. Flanagan, Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture.

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His Fight with Force Bill Deputies Makes Him a Democrat.

OUT FOR VAN WYCK NOW.

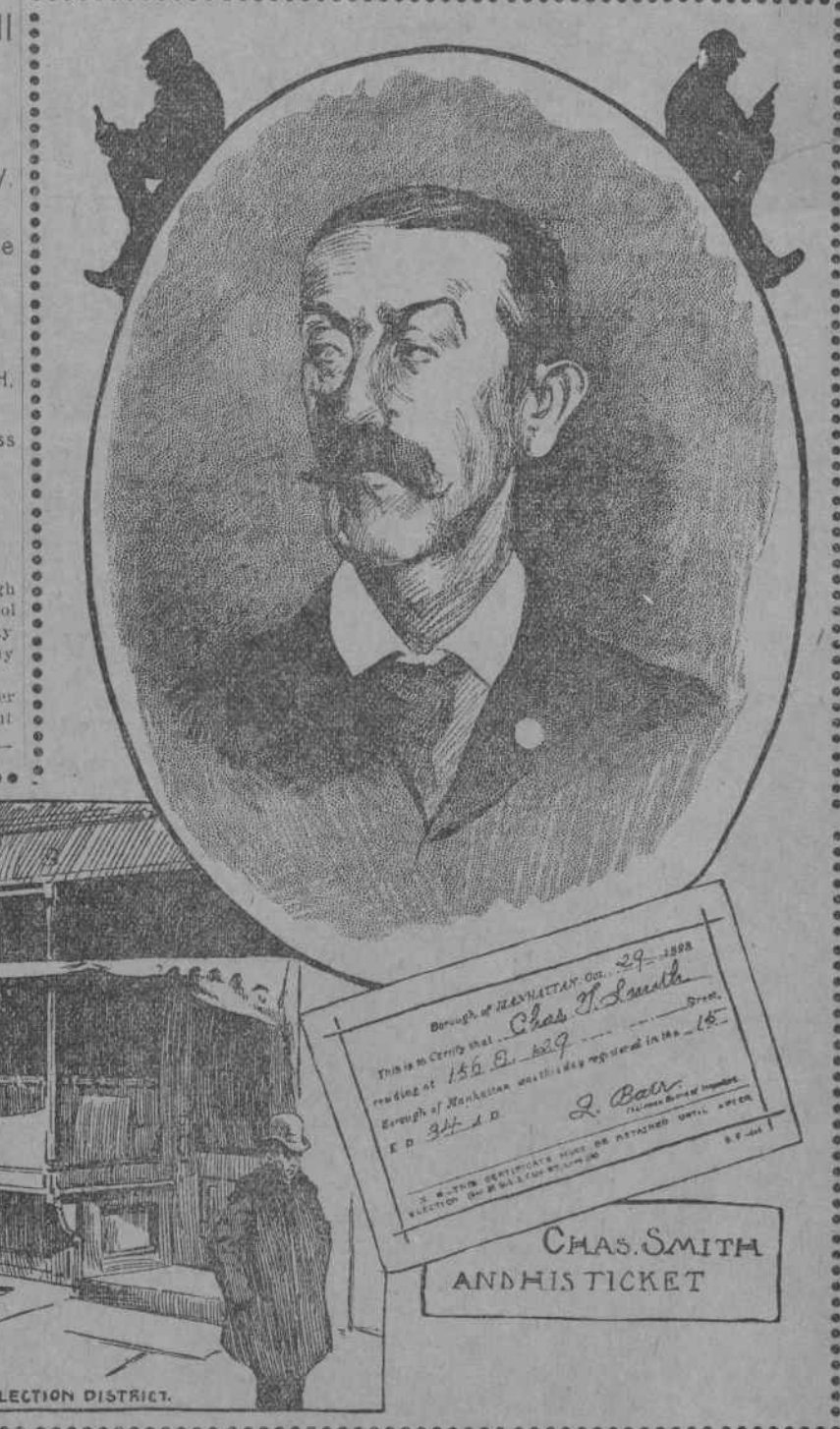
Republican Attempt to Deprive Him of a Vote Drives Him from the Party.

SENTRIES AT FORT M'CALLAGH.

No One Allowed to Enter Unless Armed with a Deputy's Badge or a Pass.

For the first time since John McCullagh opened his armory for the club-and-pistol Force Law Brigade at No. 583 Broadway the portulcus was down at the Broadway entrance yesterday.

The building has an entrance on Mercer street and deputies were going in and out.



Charles F. Smith Will Vote in Spite of Force Bill Deputies.

John J. Hallock Says it Cost Him \$2,280 to Get His Work to Do.

A LAWYER IS ACCUSED.

Charges a Brother of Senator Wilcox with Receiving the Cash.

SENATOR HILL'S CHARGE.

"But, in addition to the facts disclosed in the report, other damaging facts are coming to light from week to week. From reliable information in my possession I charge that contractors who were disposed to perform honest work were blackmailed by canal officials."—SENATOR HILL at Brooklyn Academy of Music October 20.

This assertion by Senator Hill raised a storm of alleged indignation from the Republican campaign orators all over the State.

Here is a little story of a Syracuse contractor, by name John J. Hallock, who disburse \$45,000 worth of work on the canal system, for the privilege of doing which he paid at various times the sum of \$2,280 to a lawyer in Syracuse. This lawyer is the brother of a State Senator. And because of his refusal to pay a balance of \$900 due the lawyer by the terms of a written agreement in the lawyer's possession, Contractor Hallock asserts that he was harassed and hounded by canal officials so that he lost a sum approximating \$5,000 on the work, instead of realizing about \$10,000 as he had contemplated. The story of Contractor Hallock is backed up by documentary evidence. Here is the story as told by his own lips:

"I had been doing work on the canals for about ten years, when, during the session of the Legislature in 1895, Senator Benjamin M. Wilcox of Albany, representing the Third-Third Senate District, and now a candidate for re-election, introduced a bill providing for the improvement of the Oswego Lake feeder to the Erie Canal and appropriating the sum of \$12,000 for the work. I put in a bid, and the contract was awarded to me in September, 1895. I began operations at once. The nature of the work was such that it was necessary to introduce the lake to constitute a breakwater.

"The inspector in charge of the work was J. H. Dwyer, a Republican politician, who was one of the men appointed by Superintendent Aldridge, in violation of the Civil Service law, and were afterwards paid by a special award of the Board of Claims under a special act of the Legislature.

"When the work was about two-thirds completed, Inspector Dwyer reported to the Superintendent of the Board of Public Works that the work was not in accordance with the specifications, was defective and worthless that it would require overhauling and rebuilding. In view of this repudiation of the work by the inspector who had watched it all through, I suspended operations on the improvement in November, 1895.

"Following this—some time in March, 1896—Frank Z. Wilcox, a lawyer of Syracuse, and a brother of Senator Wilcox, introduced himself to me and called my attention to the fact that the work I had been doing at Albany had been condemned and suspended. He offered to use his friendly offices with his brother, the Senator, to have the work accepted and continued. I told him I would be glad of any assistance he could render and would appreciate it.

"You are in a bad condition up there at Albany," he said. "The politicians are all against you, and they are after you, and will require considerable money to satisfy them."

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